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Commission on Investment, Technology
and Related Financial Issues
First session
Geneva, 18 November 1996
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

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II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Introduction

1. As mandated by UNCTAD IX, the Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues will deal with the areas identified in paragraphs 89 (a)-(g); 91 (iii); 89 (k)-(m); and 87 (i) of "A Partnership for Growth and Development" (TD/377). The Commission will perform integrated policy work in its areas of competence. It has specific mandates and greater delegation of decision-making on matters of substance. It meets once a year unless otherwise decided by the Board.

Item 1 - Election of officers

2. In accordance with rule 18 of the rules of procedure of the main Committees of the Trade and Development Board, the Commission shall elect a Chairman, five Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur from among the representatives of its members, taking into account the need to ensure an equitable geographical distribution. Moreover, rule 19 of the same rules of procedure states that the Bureau of the Commission shall consist of seven members, including four members from Groups A and C combined, two members from Group B and one member from Group D, referred to in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX) as amended.

3. The Commission may therefore wish to elect its Bureau in accordance with the above rules.

Item 2 - Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

4. The provisional agenda for the first session of the Commission, as reproduced in section I above, was approved by the Trade and Development Board at its thirteenth executive session on 8 July 1996.

Documentation

TD/B/COM.2/1 Provisional agenda and annotations

5. Concerning the organization of the work of the session, the Commission has five days available. It is suggested that the agenda items be taken up sequentially, with the first plenary meeting, on Monday 18 November, being devoted to procedural matters, introductory statements and the commencement of the discussion under item 3. The discussion is expected to continue until the close of the afternoon meeting on Tuesday 19 November. Item 4 would be taken up on Wednesday 20 November, and items 5, 6 and 7 in the morning session of Thursday 21 November. The last plenary meeting, on Friday 22 November, would be devoted to the adoption of any formal action and to item 8.

6. The secretariat will prepare a tentative sequence of issues to be dealt with by the Commission which will be available on the first day of the session.

Item 3 - Developments in international investment: interaction between investment and trade and its impact on development

7. Against the background of global and regional FDI trends and on the basis of an analysis of the interrelationships between FDI and trade, the Commission will discuss national and international policy measures designed to increase the contribution of FDI to development, including especially measures to encourage FDI flows to developing countries, especially LDCs. To facilitate the discussion, the report on this item summarizes the information in the World Investment Report 1996.[1]

Documentation

UNCTAD/DTCI/32 (Overview)	"Overview of the World Investment Report 1996: Investment, Trade and International Policy Arrangements

8. The World Investment Report 1996 will serve as a background document for the deliberations. A background paper on "Experiences gained in technical cooperation with respect to best practices in investment promotion" (TD/B/COM.2/Misc.1, (English only)) reports the findings of the survey conducted by the secretariat on "Best practices in investment promotion". The report also indicates how the technical cooperation programme of the Division on Investment, Enterprise Development and Technology supports developing countries' efforts to succeed in promoting investment.

Item 4 - Issues related to competition law of particular relevance to development

9. The Commission will focus on examining issues related to the subject: continuing analytical work on restrictive business practices and assistance in formulating competition policies and legislation. To facilitate the discussion, experts will prepare a report.[2]

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1 This annotation was approved by the Trade and Development Board at its thirteenth executive session (see TD/B/EX(13)/2, annex III. B, item 3).

2 Idem, item 4.

10. In line with the above, the Board decided to hold the Expert Meeting on Competition Law and Policy on 13-15 November, just before the first session of the Commission, in order for the Chairman of the Expert Meeting to present the report of that Meeting, highlighting the main points under this item of the session. The report of the Third United Nations Conference to Review all Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices (TD/RBP/CONF.4/15) will be available.

Documentation

TD/B/COM.2/2 and Add.1 Issues related to competition law of particular relevance to development

Item 5 - Reports requiring the attention of the Commission

11. Under this item, consideration would be given to the report of the UNCTAD secretariat on the activities of the programme and to the report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting.[3]

Documentation

TD/B/COM.2/Misc.2 (English only)	Report by the UNCTAD secretariat on the activities of the programme
TD/B/ITNC/7	Report of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting on its fourteenth session

Item 6 - Provisional agenda for the second session of the Commission and any necessary preparation through expert meetings

12. In accordance with rule 8 of the rules of procedure of the main Committees, the secretariat will submit during the session a draft provisional agenda for the second session of the Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues tentatively scheduled to be convened from 29 September to 3 October 1997.

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3 Idem, item 5.

Item 7 - Other business

13. In accordance with the decision taken at UNCTAD IX (para. 114 of "A Partnership for Growth and Development" (TD/377)), the Commission may convene expert meetings of short duration, not exceeding three days, in order to benefit from a higher level of technical expertise. Expert meetings should receive from the parent Commission precise terms of reference. In the light of the provisional agenda for the second session, the Commission may decide on the expert meetings to be convened during 1997.

Item 8 - Adoption of the report of the Commission

14. The report of the Commission will be submitted to the Trade and Development Board for consideration.